

OVERVIEW OF CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

- Established in 1978 by the General Assembly, the CD is the principal international body for multilateral negotiations.
- It has a membership of forty states, including the five nuclear weapons states and is linked organizationally to the UN through the CD Secretary, the personal representative of the UN Secretary-General.
- The CD meets twice a year-winter and summer. Each session lasts about 3 months.
- At the 1983 winter session, Vice President Bush announced that the US was ready to negotiate a chemical weapons ban (but not to write treaty text).

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